

(19) World Intellectual Property
Organization
International Bureau



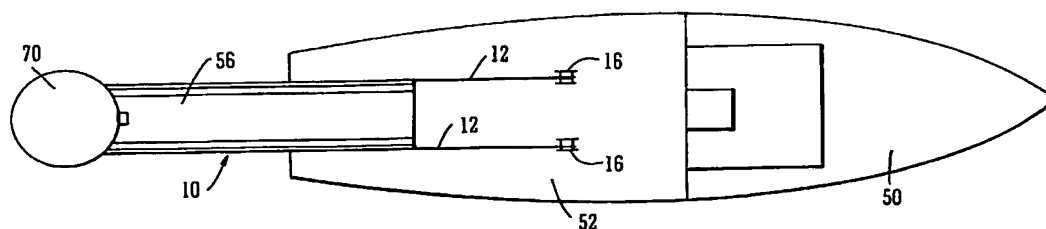
(43) International Publication Date
26 May 2005 (26.05.2005)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number
WO 2005/047097 A1

- (51) International Patent Classification⁷: **B63B 27/14**, (74) Agent: SANDERSON, Nigel, Paul; Harrison Goddard Foote, Belgrave Hall, Belgrave Street, Leeds LS2 8DD (GB).
- (21) International Application Number: PCT/GB2004/004716 (81) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of national protection available): AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BW, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, EG, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NA, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PG, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SY, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, YU, ZA, ZM, ZW.
- (22) International Filing Date: 9 November 2004 (09.11.2004)
- (25) Filing Language: English
- (26) Publication Language: English
- (30) Priority Data:
0326147.6 10 November 2003 (10.11.2003) GB
0403362.7 16 February 2004 (16.02.2004) GB
0417279.7 3 August 2004 (03.08.2004) GB
- (71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): THE ENGINEERING BUSINESS LIMITED [GB/GB]; Broomhaugh House, Riding Mill, Northumberland NE44 6EG (GB).
- (72) Inventors; and
- (75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only): WATCHORN, Michael, John [GB/GB]; The Old Coach House, High Mickley, Stocksfield, Northumberland NE43 7LU (GB). GRINSTED, Timothy, William [GB/GB]; Beaumont House, Stocksfield, Northumberland NE43 7TN (GB).
- (84) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of regional protection available): ARIPO (BW, GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, NA, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IS, IT, LU, MC, NL, PL, PT, RO, SE, SI, SK, TR), OAPI (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).
- Published:
— with international search report
- For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

(54) Title: ACCESS METHOD BETWEEN MARINE STRUCTURES AND APPARATUS



(57) Abstract: Access means are provided for accessing a fixed offshore structure such as a wind turbine (70), larger vessel or like form a smaller transfer vessel (50), or for providing for transfer between vessels. One or more guide wires (12) are connected from the vessel (50) to the fixed structure (70) or second vessel and placed in tension such as by directing the transfer vessel away from the fixed structure. In one embodiment, inflatable members are suspendable from the guide wires and inflation of the inflatable members causes them to extend along the guide wires to form an access surface (56) across which personnel may walk to access the fixed structure or second vessel from the first vessel. Mounting means are also provided which accommodate relative rotational, translational and pitching movement of the apparatus and vessel, caused by wave motion. In another embodiment, a bridge member is retained on a runway of the first vessel and deployed using said guide wires (12).

WO 2005/047097 A1